GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
DEFENCE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:538
ANSWERED ON:04.12.2003
PROCUREMENT OF AIRCRAFT CARRIERS
DHANI RAM SHANDIL;M.H. AMBAREESH;VINAY KUMAR SORAKE

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have concluded a final deal on the acquisition of Russian aircraft carrier Adm. Gorshkov during the recent visit of the Prime Minister of India to Moscow;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the investment proposed to be made therein;

(c) whether India has the expertise to assess the combat-worthiness of Adm. Gorshkov;

(d) if not, whether any other international experts/valuers were engaged to evaluate the deal;

(e) to what extent the acquisition of Adm. Gorshkov will enhance the combat capabilities of Indian Navy;

(f) whether there is any proposal to acquire more aircraft carrier to strengthen the Indian Navy; and

(g) if so, the investment propose to be made in this regard?

Answer

MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES)

(a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise in view of (a) above.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Acquisition of Admiral Gorshkov will provide the requisite offensive capability and will be a major deterrent factor. It can neutralize anticipated threats and initiate offensive action in support of land forces and in the execution of amphibious tasks.

(f) & (g): Government have approved the indigenous construction of an Air Defence Ship for the Indian Navy in 1999.Keeping in view the strategic importance and role of the Air Defence Ship, approval was accorded for a higher capacity ship at a revised cost of Rs. 2880 crores in January, 2003.